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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
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**JOINT AGREEMENT FOR SOUND WILDLIFE PLANNING  
ON RIVER BASIN PROJECTS ANNOUNCED**

An interagency agreement between the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior to promote sound planning of fish and wildlife facilities on river basin projects, was announced today.

The agreement signed by Acting Secretary of the Interior Ralph A. Tudor and Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens represents a forward step in the program of cooperation between the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service and is designed to provide for the preservation of fish and wildlife resources in the development of irrigation, navigation, flood control and power multipurpose projects.

Uniform procedures are set forth in the agreement for the incorporation of recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the State Fish and Game Departments, in project reports submitted to Congress by the Corps of Engineers. General plans will be developed jointly by the two Federal agencies and the appropriate State agency where either the Federal or State wildlife agencies desires to make use of the resources of completed projects. Maximum practicable public benefits for wildlife conservation will be sought on a local, regional and national scale.

The agreement provides, among other things that both gains and losses to wildlife will be considered, and that the recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Service will be as specific as possible as to purpose, costs, results expected and related matters. The agreement also provides that, as a general policy, leases of project lands by the Corps of Engineers for agricultural purposes shall specify that the lands shall be open for public hunting and fishing. Reports of the Corps of Engineers on projects where effects on fish and wildlife resources are significant shall include fish and wildlife conservation as one of the project purposes.

Today's agreement, which was negotiated by Major General S. D. Sturgis, Jr., Chief of Army Engineers, and John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, establishes definite guidance for personnel of both agencies in the preparation of project proposals within the framework of the Coordination Act of 1946.

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